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India

INDIA

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Questions and Answers

FOR USE OF

Junior Missionary Societies

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INDIA

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PART I.

1. Where is India?

India is a great peninsula, extending from the Southern part of the continent of Asia into the Indian ocean.

2. How large is India?

It is about half as large as the United States, not counting Alaska.

3. How do missionaries go to India?

They go in steamships across the Atlantic ocean to England, where they board another vessel which carries them to one of the sea-ports of India. Some missionaries cross the continent of Europe by rail and sail from one of the Mediterranean ports to India.

4. How far is India from America?

It is about 10,000 miles from New York to Bombay, or Karrachi, ports on the Western coast of India.

5. What is the climate in India?

Tropical.

6. What are the seasons in India?

The hot, rainy and cold.

7. Describe the hot season.

In the Punjab, the hot season begins about the first of March and lasts until about the

first of July. At the first of April, it is uncomfortably warm, the thermometer often rising to 120 F. in the shade. The heat is most intense in June when the thermometer sometimes stands at 160 degrees F. in the sun. Foreign residents close their houses early in the day to keep out the heat, and work outdoors can be done safely only in the early morning and late in the evening. About the first of April, hot, scorching winds begin to blow. Occasionally there is a dust storm, which is a wind storm carrying with it the dust of the plains, over which it sweeps, sometimes producing total darkness, and dangerous to man and beast. This is usually followed by a shower of rain.

8. Describe the rainy season.

The rainy season begins in North India about the first of July and lasts until the middle of September. There are heavy showers almost daily, which are usually succeeded by sunshine and intense moist heat. The rivers become flooded, and sometimes much damage is done to property. The plains, which during the hot season were dry and baked, are soon green with vegetation.

9. Describe the cold season.

In North India, the cold season lasts from the middle of September until the last of March, December and January being the coldest, with a little frost. In Southern India the temperature is very much the same all the year. Gardens are made and wheat sown in October. The nights are cool and sometimes frosty, and fires are needed in the houses, but it is always warm in the sun.

In December, the oranges are ripe and roses are finest in the gardens then and in March.

10. When is the harvest season in India?

There are different seasons for different crops, but the principal harvest season is in April. Wheat and barley are then cut.

11. What are the chief products of North India?

Wheat, barley, dal (a kind of lentiles), rice, cotton and sugar cane.

12. What is the population of India?

About 300,000,000.

13. Describe the personal appearance of the natives of India.

The better class of the people in the North of India are tall, slender and well formed, with straight, black hair, dark eyes, regular features and often perfect teeth. The color of the skin is brown, ranging from the lightest to black.

14. Describe the dress of the people.

In North India the men wear turbans, loose shirts,—worn outside,—loose coats, loose trousers, tight below the knee, and low shoes. The women of the Punjab wear loose, baggy trousers, tight at the ankles, a loose shirt over these, and a veil thrown over the head and shoulders. Sometimes a wide skirt is worn instead of the trousers. Jewelry is worn on ears, nose, forehead, neck, arms, wrists, fingers, ankles and toes. The jewelry of the rich is very costly. The ornaments of the poor are of cheap material. The dress of the children resembles that of their parents.

15. Describe the houses of the people.

Rich people live in high, brick houses, often very handsome without, but dark within. The masses of the people live in low mud dwellings with flat roofs, without windows, and with no light or ventilation except from the door. Most of the houses are built around a court from which a door opens into the street.

16. What is the furniture of an ordinary Indian home?

One or two charpais or bedsteads, one or two vessels for cooking, a knife and spoon, one or two water vessels and a cup for drinking, a stool, a spinning wheel, a few mats, sometimes a stone hand-mill for grinding grain, a primitive lamp, and sometimes a box which is used as a trunk.

17. What may be said of the cities of India?

In some of the cities there are splendid palaces, temples and mosques. There are also fine public buildings erected by the English government. The wealthy classes of the people live in the cities and have well-built and well-furnished houses. There are a few wide streets, but most of them are very narrow and dirty. Parts of the city are always devoted to bazars and markets. The majority of the people live in low, mud houses.

18. Describe a Punjabi village, (or describe a village in the Punjab.)

It is a collection of low mud houses in a field. The houses open into the narrow, dirty lanes of the village, only a few doors breaking the mud wall seen from without. There are a few trees and one or two wells. There

is usually an open space where men sit and talk in the evening. Where there are Mohammedans there is always a mosque or Mohammedan worshipping place. Where there are Hindus there is an idol temple or shrine. The low caste people have their mud idols. Farmers do not live in isolated houses, but in these villages, and the fields surrounding the village belong to them.

PART II.

19. What are some of the employments of the people in India?

They engage in all sorts of business and farming. Many are in government service, while some are in the army.

20. What are the modes of travel in India?

Railways, street cars, carriages, carts, ek-kahs (springless buggies), palanquins and ponies. Many people take long journeys on foot.

21. What is the food of the people?

They live largely on vegetable food. The bread is made of coarse flour mixed with water and baked in thin cakes. With this they eat sag or greens, or dal (a kind of lentiles). Sometimes they have dal and rice, or curry and rice. Much pepper is used and other spices, in cooking native food. Mohammedans use all sorts of meat except pork, which they consider an abomination. The Hindus do not eat beef. The outcasts eat anything, even carrion. All classes smoke the hukka or water-pipe.

22. What is a zenana?

It is the name applied to the quarters of the women who are shut up in their homes and not allowed to go about freely in the streets. They are allowed to see no men but near relations. Mohammedan women who live in close seclusion are called **purdah nishin** or dwellers behind the curtain. Forty millions are prisoners of the zenana. Women of the poorer classes are not thus secluded.

23. What is peculiar about the households in India?

When a son marries he does not go into a house of his own, but brings his wife home to live with his parents and other members of the family. The wife must obey her mother-in-law, who is often unkind and sometimes cruel. Where several families live together, there is often much quarreling among the women.

24. What are the employments of the women?

They cook and serve their husband's meals. They spin and sometimes embroider, and a few learn to read the books of their religions. Much time is spent in quarreling and gossiping. The women of the villages sometimes assist in field work.

25. What diseases are most prevalent in India?

Cholera and kindred troubles, liver and spleen diseases, and fevers of all sorts. Eye troubles are numerous and severe, and many people are blind. There are many lepers and wretched beggars. The black plague has re-

cently been carrying off thousands in some parts of India, but more people die every year from fever than from any other cause.

26. We often hear of famine in India. Why is this?

The population of the country is dense. Many of the people are in debt to the merchants and are obliged to pay exorbitant interest. Often most of a farmer's crops go to these money lenders. Even in a good year it is hard for the poor to get enough to eat and wear, for the wages of a common laborer are only about ten cents per day. When there is little rain, the shop-keepers raise the price of grain until it becomes impossible for the poor to buy, and much suffering results. Wheat is often stored in pits during a time of plenty, and when famine comes, this decaying grain is sold to the starving people at high rates by the merchants.

PART III.

27. When did Europeans first settle in India?

The Portuguese settled Goa, north of Bombay, in 1510. The Dutch made a settlement on the eastern coast in 1580. They were followed by the British in 1599, who established a factory at Surat, north of Madras in 1612.

28. What nation now governs India?

The British, who have gradually conquered the country. King George is now called Emperor of India.

29. What is the policy of Great Britain in regard to missions?

Missionaries are protected, but no special favor is given to them or to those natives who become Christians.

30. What is Great Britain doing for the education of the people?

Government schools are maintained in almost every city and large town for the education of native boys and young men. There are also some schools for girls. No religious instruction is given in any of these schools. Government aid is given under certain conditions to mission schools as well as to the religious schools of Hindus and Mohammedans.

31. How is British power maintained in India?

Notwithstanding the mild and usually just character of the British rule, many of the natives are so restless under foreign control, that British authority is only maintained by means of military forces stationed in all the great cities and at important places on the frontier. Rawal Pindi is one of the most important military stations.

32. What are the principal religions of India?

Hinduism, Mohammedanism and Buddhism.

We do not come in contact with the latter in our mission field. There are several other religions, and, besides these, many people are becoming Christians.

33. How many gods do the Hindus worship?

About 330,000,000.

34. What are some of these gods?

Brahma, Vishnu and Siva are the principal deities. Besides these there are many inferior gods and goddesses; gods of gold, silver, copper, stone and even of mud. Rivers, streams and mountains are worshipped, as well as sacred trees, cows, monkeys, and peacocks and many other things.

35. What is caste?

Caste is the name given to the hereditary classes into which Hindus are divided. Hinduism teaches that Brahma created four classes of people: 1. The Brahmans, or priests; 2. The Kshatriyas, or soldiers; 3. The Vaisiyas, or farmers and merchants; 4. The Sudras, or mechanics and laborers. Each caste has many sub-divisions, and besides all these are the pariahs or outcasts.

36. What is the result of caste upon the lives of the people?

People of different castes may not eat or drink together. They may not inter-marry or have much social intercourse. A low caste must not allow his shadow to fall on a high caste, or on his food. He must always give a high caste right of way. He cannot hope to rise into a higher caste, while a high caste can fall only by breaking caste rules.

37. What is the result of caste upon mission work?

When a Hindu becomes a Christian, he is regarded as an outcast and denied the fellowship of his family and friends. Caste is one of the greatest obstacles to mission work.

38. What is child marriage?

The parents and relations of children arrange for their marriage while they are very young. The little ones have no power or choice in the matter. Boys are usually married when about twelve or fourteen years of age, and girls between the ages of five and ten and even younger. If the husband or betrothed dies, even if the widow is still a child, she must remain a widow all her life.

39. What is Sutteeism?

The custom of burning widows alive with the dead bodies of their husbands. This custom has been abolished by the British government.

40. How many widows are there in India and how are they treated?

There are about 22,000,000 widows now in all India. They are doomed to lives of drudgery and misery. Their jewels and good clothes are usually taken from them, and they are often treated with cruelty. Death is a welcome release to most of these poor creatures.

41. What is infanticide?

The murder of infants. In a Hindu home the birth of a daughter is considered a calamity, especially if there are no sons in the family. Formerly great numbers of baby girls were murdered every year in India, and even boys were sometimes murdered by throwing them to the crocodiles in the River Ganges as a sacrifice to the gods. But infanticide has been abolished by the government, although many girl children are still secretly killed.

42. What is woman's position in Hinduism?

Degraded in the extreme. A woman is her husband's property, his slave. A Hindu writer says: "The husband is the wife's religion, the wife's sole business, the wife's all in all. When the husband is pleased, Brahma is pleased. As there is often no love between husband and wife, the misery of the poor woman cannot be imagined.

43. What is Mohammedanism?

Mohammedanism is a system of religion founded by a man named Mohammed, who was born in Arabia, about the year 570 A. D., and who professed to receive revelations from God. These revelations are contained in a book called the Koran. Mohammedans claim that the Koran has taken the place of the Bible.

44. How was Mohammedanism propagated?

Chiefly by the sword. Their cry was, "The Koran or Death." In consequence of the invasion and settlement of portions of India by Mohammedan Arabs, and by the Moghuls, many of the natives of India became Mohammedans. There are more than 50,000,000 of that faith now in India.

45. What success do Christian missions have among Mohammedans?

Although Mohammedans as a class are bitterly hostile to Christianity, yet more converts are made from them than from among the Hindus. A number of our Christians have been Mohammedans.

46. What are the customs of the Mohammedans?

The Mohammedans have not so many customs as the Hindus, but they have become affected by some of their caste prejudices. Feasts and fasts and the season of prayer are carefully observed by "the faithful." Although they profess a horror of idols they worship at the tombs of eminent and pious Mohammedans and keep lights burning there at night.

47. Who are the Sikhs?

The Sikhs are found chiefly in the Punjab, where they were once a powerful nation. Their last ruler, Dhuleep Singh, was deposed by the British in 1849. The Sikhs are the followers of a man named Nanuck, who was born more than 400 years ago in Lahore. He was a Brahman who became disgusted with idolatry and founded a new religion.

48. What are his teachings and how have the Sikhs degenerated?

Nanuck taught his followers, "to worship one Supreme Being, to practice strict morality and to live by the sword." The Sikhs have gradually relapsed into idolatry, and now even their sacred book, called the "Grunth," is worshipped. They are, however, a class of people superior to the Hindus. Their sacred language is Gurmukhi.

49. Mention two reforming sects of Hinduism.

The Brahma Somaj and the Arya Somaj. The followers of these sects try to reform Hinduism while remaining Hindus.

50. What are fakery?

Fakers (fakeers) are men who in pursuit of holiness separate themselves from their families and live as hermits and beggars, sometimes giving themselves up to meditation and self-torture, but as often living in sensual indulgence. A woman who chooses a wholly religious life is called a fakirni.

51. What is the language of the people of India?

Urdu or Hindustani is spoken all over India by the educated classes, but each province has its own particular language spoken by the common people, most of whom understand no other. Our missionaries learn Hindustani, and Punjabi, which is the language of the Punjab. Many learn to read Gurmukhi, the sacred language of the Sikhs. Hindi and Persian are studied by some of the missionaries.

PART IV.

52. What country first sent Protestant missionaries to India?

Denmark, in 1705.

53. Mention three early missionaries to India?

Christian Frederick Swartz, of Germany, who went to India in 1750; William Carey, of England, who went in 1793, and Dr. Duff, of Scotland, who began his work in Calcutta in 1830.

54. When and by whom was the first American Mission commenced in India?

In 1834 the American Presbyterian Mission was commenced in North India by the Rev. John C. Lowrie.

55. When was the American United Presbyterian Mission founded in India?

In 1855.

56. Who were the first missionaries?

Rev. and Mrs. Andrew Gordon and Miss Elizabeth G. Gordon.

57. What part of India was chosen for our mission field?

The Punjab, a province in North India, which had then been but a short time under British control. Most of the Punjab is a great plain. Along its northern frontier rise the mighty Himalayas.

58. Where was our first mission station?

At Sialkot, which is an old city of about 45,000 inhabitants, and near which is a large military station.

59. Through what terrible experience did our missionaries safely pass in 1857?

The Sepoy mutiny.

60. When were the first converts baptized?

In the autumn of 1857.

61. Name the districts which have been occupied by our mission.

Sialkot, Pasrur, Gujranwala, Zafarwal, Jhelum, Gurdaspur, Pathankot, Rawal Pindi, Bhera or Sargodha, Lyallpur, Khangah Dogran and Sangla Hill.

62. How is each district sub-divided?

Into stations and sub-stations, the latter under the care of native workers.

63. How many foreign missionaries have been sent to the field since the mission was founded?

One hundred and thirty-seven, counting ordained and unordained missionaries, their wives and the unordained lady missionaries.

64. How large is our field, and what is its population?

Then entire length from southeast to northwest is nearly 300 miles, with an average width of 150 to 200 miles. The population is about 5,000,000.

65. How many people are there to each ordained missionary?

About 200,000.

66. How many Christians are there under the care of our missionaries?

In 1913 there were 29,525 adult members, 18,661 baptized children and 6054 catechumens, a total Christian community of 54,240.

67. How many native ministers and workers are there?

In 1913 there were: Ordained Native Ministers, 36; Licentiates, 11; Theological Students, 22; Colporteurs, 11; Bible Women, 50; Other Evangelistic Workers, 104; Christian Teachers, 202; Non-Christian Teachers, 209; Hospital Assistants, 9; Nurses, 21. Total, 655.

68. How many congregations have been organized?

In 1913 there were 53 organized congregations and of these 30 are self-supporting.

69. From what class do the greater part of our converts come?

From the Chuhbras or Sweeper class.

70. Who are the Chuhbras?

The Chuhbras are among the lowest of the people in the Punjab. They are regarded as unclean and are required to live in separate quarters in the village.

They act as servants to the farmers, assisting them in the fields. They do also the street cleaning and any dirty work in city and country. They are not allowed to touch the food of their masters or draw water from the wells.

The women do the scavenger work of the village and carry away the filth of the houses in baskets upon their heads. The condition of these people has greatly improved in recent years, many of them becoming quite independent of the farmers by renting land and becoming their own masters.

Brick making and trading in hides furnishes independent livelihood to increasing numbers.

The most of the Chuhbras are descended from the Aborigines of the country and have darker skins than the higher classes. They worship an idol made of mud, called Bali Shah.

71. How do these people receive the Gospel?

In some cases, they are indifferent and even hostile, but usually the missionaries are welcomed and their teachings joyfully received. There are so many Christian and

inquirers from this class that it is hard to find teachers enough for them.

72. Where do most of the Christians live?

In villages scattered over the districts.

73. What method do the missionaries find best for reaching the people?

They go on tenting tours through their districts, camping from village to village. This can be done, in the greater part of our field, only in the cold season. In the hot season the missionaries can visit only those villages within a few miles of the mission houses or near travelers' bungalows; but there is always much work to be done in mission centers.

74. Besides the regular work in the mission centers, what special work is done during the hot season in almost every district?

The native helpers from the district come together to study the Bible and to seek spiritual advancement, and are formed into schools which continue for several weeks. The men are instructed by the ordained missionaries; their wives by the lady missionaries.

75. Why are female physicians especially necessary in India?

The customs of the country require the seclusion of women. So close is this seclusion among many of the higher classes that no matter how ill a woman may be a male physician is not permitted to see her.

PART V.

76. What are the general methods of work pursued by our missions, and by all missions in India?

The Gospel is preached among the masses in halls, churches and streets, or wherever an audience may be obtained. The women are reached by the lady missionaries, who have access also to the homes of the people. Schools are established where the secular instruction is accompanied by Bible teaching and Sabbath schools are conducted. Christian literature is circulated, and reading rooms are founded. Pastoral work is done among the native Christians, and much attention is given to their instruction and to the education, training and direction of mission workers. Hospitals and dispensaries are established for the sick by medical missionaries. In these, religious instruction is imparted to the sufferers.

77. How many hospitals have been established in our mission?

There are four hospitals, located at Sialkot, Jhelum, Sargodha and Pasrur, also branch dispensaries at Bhera, Kala, Pathankot.

78. What is the especial work of the lady missionaries?

The instruction of the women and girls in Bible truth. Heathen women are visited in their homes and taught the way of salvation. Much time is given to the instruction of the native Christian women, and in the supervision of girls' schools.

79. How many schools are there under the care of our missionaries?

Schools of all grades, 207.

80. How many pupils are enrolled in these schools?

There are non-Christians reading, 8112; Christian boys reading, 2216; Christian girls reading, 803. Total, 11131.

81. Where are the largest schools for boys located?

In Gujranwala, Rawal Pindi and Sialkot. Almost all the boys and young men in attendance at these schools are non-Christian. There is a college department in connection with the school at Rawal Pindi.

82. Where are the largest schools for non-Christian girls located?

At Gujranwala, Sialkot, Rawal Pindi and Jhelum.

83. What educational institutions have been established at Sialkot for the benefit of the young native Christians of our mission?

The Christian Training Institute, the Christian Girls' Boarding School and the *Theological Seminary.

84. What is the object of the Christian Training Institute?

To give the native Christian boys a good Christian education, and to fit them for becoming teachers and preachers among their people.

*Note: The Theological Seminary has recently been transferred to Gujranwala.

85. What is the object of the Christian Girls' Boarding School?

To give the native Christian girls a good Christian education, and a thorough training in the art of housekeeping, thus fitting them to become teachers of others as well as good wives for the native Christian young men.

86. What is the object of the Theological Seminary?

To furnish the church in India with a well-trained native ministry.

87. What provision is made for the education of Christian boys and girls in their villages?

Schools are established in many of the villages, which are sometimes attended by all classes.

88. How many Sabbath schools are there?

Sabbath Schools, 170; Sabbath School Teachers, 241; Sabbath School Scholars, 6453.

89. How many native Christians are there in the whole of India, including Bombay and Burma?

Nearly three millions.

90. In what way can we help our India Mission?

By words of encouragement, by prayers, by gifts and by going into active service in the mission fields.

91. What is the total of native contributions to the work in India?

In 1913, \$31,275.00.

92. What is the total contributions of the home church to work in India?

In 1913, \$151,499.62.

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